

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
CHARTER

1. **Official Designation:** Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council).
2. **Scope and Objective:** The Department of the Interior (Department) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believe that public and private sector entities are critical sources of information and advice about the conservation of aquatic resources and the recreational fishing and boating opportunities they offer. In addition, these public and private sector entities can offer guidance about how to increase public awareness of the importance of aquatic resources and the social and economic benefits of recreational fishing and boating. The Department and the Service believe that establishment of an advisory committee representing these entities achieves these goals. The advisory committee is designated the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) and will advise the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and the Director of the Service (Director) about aquatic conservation endeavors that benefit recreational fishery resources and recreational boating and that encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and government.
3. **Duration:** The Council is expected to exist into the foreseeable future. Its continuation is, however, subject to biennial rechartering in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
4. **Official to Whom the Council Reports:** The Council reports to the Secretary through the Director.
5. **Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support:** Support services for activities of the Council will be provided by the Service. A Coordinator for the Council will be an employee of the Service, appointed by the Director.
6. **Estimated Operating Costs:** Funding will be provided for staff support; Council, delegate, and technical staff travel; meeting expenses; and products, and will be based on an annual work plan. Estimated operating costs for the Council will be \$400,000 per year. Operating costs include two person-years of staff support.
7. **Description of Duties:** The Council's duties include:
 - a. assisting the Secretary to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a-742j);
 - b. fulfilling responsibilities established by the Executive Order 12962 for Recreational Fisheries, June 7, 1995;
 - (1) monitoring specific Federal activities affecting aquatic systems and the recreational fisheries they support;

(2) reviewing and evaluating the relation of Federal policies and activities to the status and conditions of recreational fishery resources;

(3) preparing an annual report of its activities, findings, and recommendations for submission to the National Recreational Fisheries Coordination Council;

- c. recommending policies or programs to increase public awareness and support for the Aquatic Resources (Wallop Breaux) Trust Fund;
- d. recommending policies or programs that foster stewardship and ethics in recreational fishing and boating;
- e. recommending policies or programs to stimulate angler and boater participation in the conservation and restoration of aquatic resources through outreach and education, and;
- f. fostering communication and coordination among government, industry, anglers, boaters, and the public.

8. **Allowances:** Council members serve without pay, but are eligible for reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses while attending Council meetings (in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5703). When an alternate attends a meeting in place of a Council member, the alternate is eligible for reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses. However, only one reimbursement claim per Council meeting can be submitted; either by the Council member or by the alternate member, but not both.

9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The Council will meet at the call of the Designated Federal Officer at least twice annually from the date this charter is signed by the Secretary. Council meetings will be open to the public. Notice of meetings and Council procedures will conform to Section 10 of FACA.

10. **Termination Date:** The Council is subject to the provisions of FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of Section 9 of the Act have been met. The Council is subject to biennial renewal and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the Act.

11. **Council Membership:**

- a. The Council will consist of no more than 18 members and up to 18 alternates appointed by the Secretary. Two *ex officio* members will be automatically appointed: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and President, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). The 16 remaining members will be appointed at the Secretary's discretion to achieve balanced representation for recreational fishing and boating interests. The membership will be comprised of senior-level representatives for recreational fishing, boating, and aquatic resource conservation. These appointees must have demonstrated expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas of

national interest:

(1) the Director of a State agency responsible for the management of recreational fish and wildlife resources, selected from a coastal State if the President of IAFWA is from an inland State, or selected from an inland State if the President of IAFWA is from a coastal State.

(2) saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing;

(3) recreational boating;

(4) recreational fishing and boating industries;

(5) conservation of recreational fishery resources;

(6) aquatic resource outreach and education; and

(7) tourism.

b. A majority of the Council membership will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Committee will not elect officers, take positions on issues, or offer advice or recommendations with less than a majority of its members in attendance.

c. The term of office for discretionarily appointed members will be 2 years. Council members may be reappointed. Council members must attend at least one Council meeting annually and cannot miss two successive meetings without being represented by an alternate for at least one of the meetings missed. Council membership will be forfeited if a discretionary appointee does not meet these attendance requirements.

d. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected by the Council membership and will serve 2-year terms. Successive terms may be served. If the Chair becomes vacant for any reason, the Vice-Chair will serve as Chair for the remainder of the term or until another Chair is elected by the Council.

e. When a vacancy occurs in the discretionary appointments, the Secretary may appoint a replacement pursuant to paragraph 11a for the remainder of the applicable term.

f. If a member is not reappointed or no new member is appointed on or prior to the expiration date of the member's term, the incumbent member may continue to serve until a new appointment is made provided that this charter under the Federal Advisory Committee Act is currently in effect.

g. The Designated Federal Officer is the Director, or the Director's designee.

12. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members:** A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect or appear to affect the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or minor children, unless authorized by the Designated Federal Officer. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the Council will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject.

13. **Subcommittees:** The Council may establish such subcommittees as it deems necessary for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. Such subcommittees may not conduct business without the direction of the Council as a whole and must report to the full Council.

14. **Authority:** The Council is renewed in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457 and provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a - 742j).

/s/ Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

April 20, 2004
Date Signed

May 4, 2004
Date Filed